

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01548 060854Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----070250Z 041284 /12

R 060804Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4322
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1548

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, SU, US
SUBJECT: EDU REP ASKS FOR US ARMS

1. DEJASMATCH BERHANEMASKEL DESTA, EDU OFFICIAL, WHO HAS VISITED CONSULAR SECTION OCCASIONALLY SINCE LAST SUMMER IN CONNECTION VISA APPLICATION, ASKED CONSULAR OFFICER CONVEY REQUEST FOR ARMS TO USG DURING RECENT MEETING. CONSULAR OFFICER MADE NO COMMITMENT BUT DID INDICATE DESTA'S VIEWS WOULD BE REFERRED TO DEPT.
2. LIST INCLUDES AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND AMMUNITION, HEAVY MACHINE GUNS, PISTOLS, GRENADES AND RPG ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. DESTA ESTIMATES AN ADDITIONAL \$112,000 WORTH FOOD, UNIFORMS AND OTHER LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS ALSO NEEDED. DESTA SAYS EDU NEEDS THESE ITEMS SINCE SUDAN GOVT HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN ABLE SUPPLY IT WITH SUFFICIENT MODERN WEAPONS AND MOVE TOWARD ADDIS WILL BE MADE SOON.

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3. DESTA CLAIMS 3240 EDU TRAINING IN SUDAN NEAR GEDAREF AND HE PERSONALLY WILL LEAD ABOUT 300 OF THEM IN ATTEMPT TOPPLE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT. THEY WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TEN URBAN GUERRILLA UNITS. HE CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS BECAUSE THERE SYMPATHETIC MILITARY AND POLICE IN ADDIS AREA WITH WHOM EDU HAS BEEN IN CONTACT. THEY WILL JOIN EDU CORE GROUP AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

DESTA ALSO CONVINCED GOD IS WITH EDU.

4. COMMENT: SEEMS CLEAR DESTA IS CONTEMPLATING COUP DE MAIN STROKE IN ADDIS, TO WHICH TOP-LEVEL SUDANESE HAVE PERIODICALLY REFERRED SINCE FEBRUARY, AND NEEDS MATERIEL TO BRING IT OFF. WHILE HE CLAIMS TO HAVE KEY MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN EDU, HE HAVE NO INDICATION WHEN SUCH OPERATION MIGHT BE MOUNTED. DESTA, WHO WAS GOVERNOR WOLLO PROVINCE UNDER HAILE SELASSIE REGIME, HAS BEEN ACTIVELY OPPOSING SUCCESSOR ETHIOPIAN REGIME FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HIS CONTACTS IN EMBASSY, HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN LIMITED TO THOSE OF CONSULAR CHARACTER.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT REQUESTED ADVISE EMBASSY IF IT WISHES US TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH DESTA. ASSUME WE HAVE NO RPT NO INTEREST IN SELLING OR PROVIDING ARMS TO EDU, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO LINE WE SHOULD TAKE WITH DESTA ON THIS POINT. BREWER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: EDU REP ASKS FOR US ARMS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MASS, ET, SU, US, EDU, (DESTA, DEJASMATCH BERHANEMASKEL)
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